GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:92
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2001
NATIONAL CURRICULUM FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
MD ANWARUL HAQUE;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NCERT has issued a policy statement on National Curriculum Framework for the school education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards serious concern expressed by 500 leading historians at the Indian History Congress;

(d) if so, the details of their objections in this regard;and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) & (b): The NCERT has brought out the National Curriculum Framework for School Education within the broad parameters of the National Policy on Education framed in 1986 and revised in 1992. Some of the salient features of the new curriculum framework are - viewing the child as a constructor of knowledge, reducing the curriculum load, treating all religions with equal respect, universalisation of elementary education and linking education with life skills, meeting the challenges of information and technology, recognizing the interface between cognition, emotion and action and evolving a humane, learner, friendly, error free, responsive and transparent evaluation system.

(c) & (d): Government's attention is drawn to a Resolution passed by voting in a business meeting of Indian History Congress in February 2001 in this regard. Details of the objections in this regard are
(i) the National Curriculum Framework for School Education recently issued by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) makes attempts to distort the teaching of history and it proposes to substantially reduce the quantum of history;
(ii) by making emphasis on religion as the major source of value education, it undermines the values enshrined in the Indian Constitution more particularly secular values which the National Policy on Education (1986, 1992) has emphasized;
(iii) it seeks to make an ingenuous distinction between religious education and education in religion, in order to try to circumvent the constitutional bar on the State promoting "religious instruction.

(e): The Government feel that these apprehensions expressed by few individuals are not well founded. The new National Curriculum Framework has been circulated to large cross sections of the society including the State Governments/UTs, eminent academicians, educationists, etc. The response from such sections has been generally very positive.